

February 2006
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol
Major Robert Wideman

Overview

During the month of February, The Northern Command experienced a series of mixed trends. Total crashes were up significantly from the same month last year, but down markedly from January 2006. Crashes involving injuries followed the same pattern. Crashes involving impaired drivers were down sharply compared to both last month and the same period last year.

Total enforcement activity was down by 9% compared to the previous month. This can be attributed to an increase in the volume of work hours lost due to illness and an increase in the amount of required training accomplished during the month. On a positive note, occupant restraint enforcement increased as compared to last month and the same month last year.

Commercial enforcement activity also fell during the month of February. Three full weeks of training for required commercial enforcement certifications occupied the time of much of the commercial enforcement staff. The training consumed approximately 960 trooper hours.

Communications operations continue to reflect the growth in the expectations for service and the demand on the agency. Radio transmissions increased by 27% over the same period last year. The number of incidents recorded in the Computer Aided Dispatch system increased by 45% over last year.

Content:

Crash Analysis
Field Enforcement
 Traffic
 Commercial
 Air Operations
Administrative Services
 Front Office
 Communications
 Public Information

Published
03-08-2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Feb 2006	Feb 05	% Change	Jan-06	% Change
Total Crashes	364	288	26.4%	427	-14.8%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	254	200	27.0%	316	-19.6%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	108	86	25.6%	109	-0.9%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2	2	0.0%	2	0.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	12	17	-29.4%	20	-40.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	2	2	0.0%	2	0.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2	0	200.0%	1	100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	15	15	0.0%	18	-16.7%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	9	14	-35.7%	10	-10.0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	6	1	500.0%	7	-14.3%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.5%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.3%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 0.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.1%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

The Northern Command showed a drop of 14.5% in total crashes from last month. The drop was mostly due to the 19.6% drop in property damage crashes. Injury crashes remained steady, as did fatal crashes this month compared to last month. The command did investigate a fatal crash that occurred in the jurisdiction of the Carson City Sheriff's Office. This fatal is not included in the statistics above, but did take time away from patrol for several troopers.

The command had several aggressive enforcement efforts, particularly in the rural area in an attempt to reduce crashes. The Fernley/Fallon District targeted the area of 50A east of Fernley and the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District targeted the area on 50 east of Carson City.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Feb 06		Feb 05	% Change		Jan 06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	12		17	-29.4%		20	-40.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	48		93	-48.4%		83	-42.2%
Other Arrests	315		486	-35.2%		431	-26.9%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	152		209	-27.3%		199	-23.6%
Speed violations	1945		1828	6.4%		1973	-1.4%
Hazardous moving violations	726		647	12.2%		760	-4.5%
Occupant restraint violations *	335		403	-16.9%		314	6.7%
Total violations [above violations included]	5142		5258	-2.2%		5655	-9.1%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	39		16	143.8%		83	-53.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	75		26	188.5%		80	-6.3%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	531		488	8.8%		655	-18.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1		0	100.0%		3	-66.7%
Total safety violations -- citation	265		147	80.3%		258	2.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1698		1349	25.9%		1996	-14.9%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	58		149	-61.1%		89	-34.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	40		120	-66.7%		67	-40.3%
Total school buses inspected	186		95	95.8%		15	1140.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	15		25	-40.0%		1	1400.0%
Total trucks weighed	579		155	273.5%		2299	-74.8%
Total overweight citations	39		18	116.7%		63	-38.1%
Total dyed fuel inspections	277		409	-32.3%		441	-37.2%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

The Northern Command showed a drop in almost every enforcement category this month. However, every district reported an increase in time lost to patrol. The command was hit hard with monthly and continuing training, sick leave, annual leave and compensatory time off. The command is also training three new officers, which takes proactive patrol time away from their training officers during the initial stages. As those new officers progress in their training, enforcement efforts to reduce crashes will become more focused. The graveyard shift lost one of its top DUI enforcement troopers to a special assignment for the entire month. It should also be noted that although DUI arrests dropped by 42.2%, DUI crashes also dropped by 40%.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

The Reno Urban area was staffed with 30 available troopers during the month of February. There was a noticeable reduction in crashes from last month's total of 219 to this month's total of 199, which is a 9.1% decrease. DUI related crashes were down by 35.7%. Overall enforcement activity was down by 7. This can be attributed to more than usual inclement weather days and new troopers being trained. DUI enforcement was down by 5 arrests as a trooper was temporarily reassigned. Occupant restraint citations were up by more than 10% over last month.

DAY SHIFT

Day shift was staffed with 2 sergeants and 11 troopers. Day shift reduced total accidents by 23.2 percent over the previous month, from 99 to 76. This decrease was largely due to better weather. The shift showed 22 weather related crashes compared to 34 in January. The highest accident day for February was Wednesday, which accounted for 21 crashes. The major type of accident continues to be rear-enders.

Overall enforcement activity on day shift showed a slight, .4%, increase over last month, but a 35.7% over last year. The shift lost one trooper to military leave for 2 weeks and another transferred to SIRT in the middle of the month. Day shift is also currently training a new trooper.

SWING SHIFT

Swing shift was staffed with 12 troopers and two sergeants. Swing shift lost a total of 496 man hours during the month, compared to 589 hours last month. Overall enforcement was up by more than 10% over the previous month. Swing shift handled 91 total crashes this month compared to 74 the previous month. Of the 91 crashes, 34 were injury. Of the 34 injury crashes, 23 of those were claimed injury only. The increase in accidents can be attributed to two weekends of inclement weather during the month. Of the 27 weather related crashes, 19 of them occurred on a Friday or Saturday. Weather related crashes accounted for 29% of swing shift's total crashes. The three highest accident days of the week were Saturday, Friday and Monday with 48% of them occurring between 1600 and 1900 hours. Rear end collisions accounted the majority of crashes during February.

GRAVEYARD SHIFT

Graveyard has 11 authorized positions. Current staffing is 7 Troopers and 2 sergeants. The graveyard personnel investigated 31 crashes during February. This was down from 45 the previous month. The high accident days were Friday, with 23% and Saturday, with 26%. As is the case for most months, the vast majority of graveyard collisions occurred between 2000 and 2400 hours, accounting for 52% of the total crashes. I-80 east of Reno was the highest accident area with 44% of the crashes occurring between Rock Blvd. and Mustang. Graveyard had a total of 6 injury accidents, 5 claimed and 1 non-incapacitating injury. Weather related collisions increased from last month and accounted for 64.5% of the total collisions investigated in February.

Graveyard's overall enforcement activity suffered slightly due to training duties and temporary assignments. Total enforcement was down by 16% over last month. DUI arrests were down by over 18%. Citation and arrest activity decreased from January 2006 totals. The decrease is also related to the amount of snow days in February, totaling 7.

Due to the prior month's crash figures, Graveyard Personnel were assigned directed enforcement between 2000 & 2300 hours every shift. They concentrated their patrol efforts on IR580 between Mill St. and N. McCarran Blvd. both north and southbound.

Work hours lost increased by 23.4% to 673 total hours in February.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

The new Carson freeway bypass opened February. There were no accident or incidents to report.

For the month of February 2006, the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District (CTM) had an increase in total traffic accidents from the previous year and a decrease from the previous month. Due to the unusually warm weather for February, it is noted that Day shift's high accident area changed from Lake Tahoe to beat RC10, which is US 50 from US 395 to Silver Springs. This is in correlation with Swing shift, whose primary accident area remained RC10. CTM District investigated two (2) fatal, both of which were investigated by S.I.R.T. due to prosecution.

The CTM District showed an increase in enforcement activity comparatively to the previous year with a slight decrease compared to the previous month. Day shift conducted five (5) special enforcement assignments resulting in three (3) arrests during February in various locations throughout the District.

During the month of February 2006, the CTM District was staffed with 16 Troopers and two Sergeants. Currently, one trooper is still on military leave and is scheduled to return June 1, 2006. On February 1, 2006, a trooper was released from light duty allowing him to work the entire month.

FERNLEY/FALLON

The Fernley/Fallon District remains fully staffed with two sergeants and sixteen troopers. Although fully staffed, the district had a substantial increase (81.8%) in man-hours lost, compared to last month. These lost man-hours were due to a 107% increase in training, a 149% increase in sick leave, and a 91.6% increase in compensatory time off. The Fernley area also lost four scheduled days of aircraft enforcement, which generates a substantial amount of activity.

As a direct result of the man-hours lost, area field enforcement activity decreased 19.2 % compared to last month, and decreased 16.3% compared to last year. Field enforcement was also negatively affected with an increased visibility plan, in the construction zone of 50A in Fernley, due to January's increased crash data. Area troopers increased their patrols in this area but there are only a few locations to take enforcement actions. Due to Sgt. Ames' quickly addressing the staggering numbers of serious injury crashes that occurred in this there was a positive result of this high visibility plan. Crashes were reduced in this section of the highway from 11 last month, to only 2 this month. His actions, and the enforcement efforts by area troopers, are to be recognized for having addressed and most likely reduced, the carnage to the motoring public associated from traffic collisions.

The Fallon area reported one fatal crash for the month. The driver died a few days after the crash from an internal head injury, after complaining of only minor injuries at the time of the crash. The district reported that 13 (29%) of the reported 45 area crashes were weather related.

Area enforcement activity dropped in almost every reporting category for various reasons. Adding to the already stated increase in man-hours lost, the Fernley area is also training a new trooper and much of the current training is not directed around enforcement activity.

District personnel continue to work as a team assisting adjoining areas within the District, in calls for service, crash investigations, and adjusting patrol locations as needed. For the second year in a row, the city of Fernley is the fastest growing city in Nevada at 19% population growth. The area will be studying staffing levels, and service calls over the next couple of months.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will meet or exceed the annual goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). At the end of February 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section was ahead in its year to date goals in Level I/II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections, interstate/secondary roadway weight enforcement and compliance reviews. However, the region is slightly behind in hazardous materials and motor coach inspection activity. During the month of March, commercial enforcement personnel will be tasked to increase activity in low areas and it is anticipated all year to date deficiencies will be resolved by mid-March.

During the month of February, a North American Standards Part "B" and a General Hazardous Materials course were held at the Reno NHP office. Five traffic personnel from the Northern Command area attended the Part "B" class. Six commercial enforcement personnel attended the North American Standards Part "B" course and 12 commercial enforcement personnel attended the General Hazardous Materials course.

In February, the majority of enforcement categories showed a decrease in activity. However, the commercial section is still ahead of its year to date goals. The decrease in activity was primarily due to an increase in training, annual leave and sick leave hours.

During the month of February, the Commercial Enforcement Section CVSI's continued with the spring school bus inspection cycle. Most of the rural area busses were inspected and The Washoe County School District will be completed next month. The CVSI's will continue to monitor the Washoe County School District out-of-service ratio and provide any assistance needed to improve safety.

The Commercial Enforcement Section is still participating in the Southern Command Strike-Force (STEP) program. The Northern Command sent four commercial personnel to Las Vegas during the last week of February. The STEP program is designed to saturate accident corridors in the Las Vegas Valley and reduce CMV crashes. The Northern Command Completed 72 CMV inspections.

Two CHP commercial officers worked a joint check-site operation with NHP commercial personnel at the Mustang facility. The main focus during this check-site operation was on load securing issues on commercial vehicles carrying hay. The Division will schedule additional check-sites operations with CHP during the month of March.

AIR OPERATIONS

February was a transitional month for the Flight Operations program. The Department of Personnel approved the position of Chief Pilot, which was moved to Headquarters. The backup pilot was promoted to Sgt./ Pilot and will be reporting to Elko in June with Air 1. In the meantime, both Air 1 and Air 3 will be operating from the Carson City airport.

The two aircraft operated a total of 37.6 hours in February. 6 speed enforcement missions were conducted with a total of 253 citations issued. 10 enforcement missions had been scheduled; two were cancelled due to bad weather, one was cancelled for an out of State prisoner extradition and one was cancelled for a budget meeting.

Two prisoner transports were conducted, one was a felony extradition from Livermore, Ca. to Reno and one was a misdemeanor warrant transport to Fallon.

A rental hangar was located at the Elko airport. A meeting was held with the landlord on the 14th to negotiate terms for occupancy which is tentatively planned for May 1.

A meeting was also held with the UNR Police Department on the 22nd to negotiate an agreement for reimbursement of flight expenses while transporting their prisoners.

	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total hours flown	400.0	408.3	-2%
Time over site	157.2	148.2	6%
Time en route to site	90.2	83.7	8%
Maintenance & Repair	4.3	1.1	291%
In state prisoner transports	78.2	83.5	-6%
Out of state prisoner transports	22.2	18.2	22%
Training	16.8	15.5	8%
Line patrol	2.0	12.6	-84%
All other	14.7	27.7	-47%
Personnel transports	11.4	11.1	3%
Property transports	3.0	6.7	-55%
Enforcement actions	2026	1881	8%
Enforcement missions flown	60	52	15%
Citations issued per hour	12.90	12.7	2%

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Feb 2006	Feb 2005	Change	Jan 2005	Change
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	401	348	+15.22%	578	-30.62%
Arrest Reports Processed	122	149	-18.12%	204	-40.20%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	17	11	+54.55%	15	+13.33%
Office Accident Reports Taken	41	21	+95.24%	13	+215.38%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	534	407	+31.20%	304	+75.66%
Warrants Entered	176	400	-56.00%	66	+166.67%
Warrants Cleared	405	473	-14.38%	453	-10.60%
Warrants Validated	152	173	-12.14%	189	-19.58%
Citations Processed	3754	3050	+23.08%	4244	-11.55%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	110407	86834	27.15%	113290	-2.54%
CAD incidents	13719	9428	45.51%	14440	-4.99%

FRONT OFFICE

One Administrative Assistant II position is currently vacant. We are attempting to fill this position with a Clerical Trainee. These are candidates which under-fill the Administrative Assistant series and are auto-progressed with their experience. Interviews will be conducted on March 9, 2006. Sick leave decreased this period by 30%, with compensatory leave decreasing 82%. Annual leave decreased by 45%. Overtime decreased by 45%, even with the vacant position. Annual leave also decreased by 45%.

The majority of the clerks' time was once again spent on office reports taken. This continues to increase, and did again in February by 215%. Accident reports taken by troopers decreased by 31%. Arrest reports reported a 40% decrease, as well. Incident reports increased by 13%, Forty-one office reports were taken this reporting period.

COURT WARRANTS

Regular citations processed decreased by 11.55%. Warrant entry is current through September. Two clerks from the front office are utilizing overtime for base warrant entry. This is an attempt to get the warrants office as current as possible prior to the move to Carson City. A new AAII list is being sent from DPS Personnel. This will have candidates willing to work in the geographical location of Carson City.

There was a 76% increase in new warrants received. Warrants entered increased by 167% with the hiring of one vacant position. Clears and validations decreased 30%. This is due to ongoing JLCLIENT training, and warrant entry training of the new hire and the citation clerk.

Goals for the administrative section: Complete training both clerks in Court Warrants. Get viable candidates from the new list and set up interviews by the end of March. Hire the last AAI vacant position in the front office from the Clerical Trainee group.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center remains down two PSD I and one PSD IV positions. We are anticipating two PSD I positions opening again in March for a total of 5 vacancies. There are two PSDs currently in training, both of whom should be released from training in the next few months.

Total work hours lost decreased by 13.21% since last month primarily due to a decrease in sick, administrative and compensatory leave. It decreased by 26.21% from the previous year due to a decrease in annual and sick leave.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 35.71% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole decreased by 12.92% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 52.15% when compared to last month. The decrease from last year is primarily due to changes in sick and annual leaves taken. The increase from last month is primarily due to the coverage of vacant positions accounted for 39.29% of the overtime, annual leave for 29.34%, and meetings 14.03%.

Radio transmissions increased by 27.15% over this period last year and decreased 2.54% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 45.51% over last year and decreased 4.99% since last month. The primary reason for the increase in transmissions is likely due to the new arrival of field personnel as well as increased radio use by allied agencies. The increase in incidents is primarily due to the increase in population reporting more and more information to DPS. The decreases over last month are due to a lack of days in the month.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Trooper Eddie Bowers continued to fill in for Trooper Chuck Allen who was on military leave attending the Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officers academy.

During the month we continued to provide the community with live daily traffic reports on 94.5 FM and News Channel 8. Both media entities continued to receive positive feedback for the accurate up to date highway information directly from personnel at NHP. Trooper Bowers took pride in his temporary assignment, which was reflected by the positive comments received during Trooper Allen's absence.

It appears that the Department of Public Safety will have more opportunities to be showcased as News Channel 8 is expected to build a studio set exclusively for our use. The primary purpose of the studio setting will be to deliver 5 daily traffic reports live from their building. We as a department will also have opportunities to be show cased on a weekly segment labeled "Ask the Expert."

We hope to afford other division representatives the opportunities to educate and inform the community on what we do. As we continue to approach March, we look forward to attending more events as requested to include recruitment fairs in Fallon and Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

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